

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

VOL. 38, NO. 9
OCTOBER 1983

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Up-and-Coming

Moving along into October George Krinsky and Gloria Zukerman, OPC's tireless program chairmen, have come up with more important and informative speakers. Circle the following dates:

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 5:30 p.m.—Walter Anderson, editor, *Parade*, America's most widely read magazine, which will be distributed by the *NY Daily News* effective Sunday, Sept. 18, bringing total circulation to 24 million.

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m.—Gershom Schocken, editor-in-chief and publisher of *Ha'aretz*, Israel's oldest daily newspaper. Recently honored as International Editor of the Year by World Press Review.

Thursday, Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m.—OPC Semi-Annual Membership Meeting.

Monday, Oct. 24, 12 noon—Allen H. Neuharth, chief executive officer of Gannett Company, America's largest newspaper conglomerate including *USA Today*.

Monday, Nov. 21, 12 noon-2 p.m.—noon cocktails, 12:30 luncheon—David Schneiderman, editor-in-chief, *The Village Voice*, one of the most influential weeklies in this or any city.

Luncheons: Members \$16, Guests \$20; 5:30 programs: Members free, Guests \$4. Cash bar at all functions. Reservations a must. Cancellations must be received 48 hours in advance of event where food is served, otherwise member will be charged the stated fee. For reservations, Mary Novick 212-679-9650.

Sorry, the panel of foreign press editors scheduled to meet on November 17th will have to be rescheduled. Irwin Chapman will advise.

October: Voices of the Editors

Firsthand accounts and candid insights are the rule rather than the exception at most, if not all, OPC functions. October's guest list includes Walter Anderson, editor of *Parade*, the magazine boasting a circulation of over 24 million, Gershom Schocken of *Ha'aretz* and Allen H. Neuharth of *USA Today*, respectively Israel's oldest and America's youngest newspapers. Eminently qualified to give us their timely views—each will bring us up-to-date on events in their part of the world: the Big Apple, Middle East and Far East!

"Can 50 Million Readers Be Right—the evolution of America's Most Widely Read Magazine" is PARADE editor Anderson's query for OPC audiences. Though still in his thirties, Walter is responsible for introducing many new features including Julia Child's food department and Earl Ubell's health section as well as writers Norman Mailer, Herman Wouk and Alex Haley, among others. Editor since 1980, he is a former Marine who saw service in Vietnam. A graduate of Mercy College, where he now serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees, he worked as an editor and executive at Gannett Newspapers.

Winner of the International Editor of the Year award, announced in June of

this year, Gershom Schocken of Israel's 64-year-old *Ha'aretz* is scheduled to speak October 18 at 5:30 p.m. Honored both for the paper's general excellence and for courage and enterprise in reporting the recent mideast events, the World Press Award represents yet another high-point in the long and distinguished career of the journalist and of the newspaper so closely united since 1939.

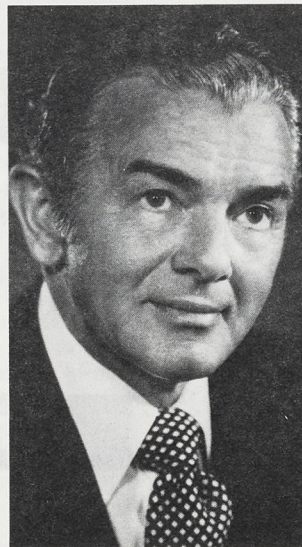
After blowing out the candle on *USA Today's* first birthday cake, Allen H. Neuharth, president of Gannett Company will have much to tell our audience about those tumultuous 12 months. *USA TODAY* has been openly imitated, secretly parodied, publicly praised, privately put down. Neuharth will talk about the national newspaper's rocky road to readership when he meets with OPCers and guests for lunch on October 24. As president of Gannett Co., Inc., a 'nationwide information company,' Neuharth gives the public its daily dose of news in print, on television and across billboards...literally covering the nation from every aspect.

In case your issue of the Bulletin doesn't arrive in time, circle your calendar for November 21 at lunch when David

(Continued on page 2)



Schocken



Neuharth



Schneiderman

Two OPCers Killed

The Club lost two of its members on violent news fronts over the past month, one on the Korean plane shot down by the Soviets and the other while covering the fighting in Lebanon.

James Thomas Beirn, Adventure Editor for *Manila* magazine, was aboard the ill-fated KAL 007 flight that was shot down by a Soviet jet fighter while enroute to Seoul Sept. 1.

Clark Todd, reporter for Canadian Television, was killed by artillery shrapnel Sept. 4 in a Lebanese mountain village.

Beirn, 26, of Piscataway, N.J., was an experienced combat, aerial and underwater photographer as well as writer,

based in Manila at the time of his death.

Todd, 38, was the London bureau chief for CTV and had extensive foreign reporting experience. He is survived by his wife and five children.

The deaths of five other members have been reported since the last Bulletin: **Vilas Boyle, J. Raymond Bell, Eugene English, Ralph Forte and Paul Heffernan.**

New Applications

NEW APPLICATIONS

ACTIVE RESIDENT

Helen Marcus, Photographer, Self employed
Sponsors: *Barrett Gallagher, Gloria Zukerman*

ACTIVE OVERSEAS

Atauko Chiba, Freelance Journalist/ Author
Sponsors: *Bernard Krisher, Alvin Cullison*

Louis Kraar, Asian Editor, Fortune Magazine
Sponsors: *Roy Rowan, Sarah C. Bartlett*

Robert E. Udick, Publisher, Pacific Daily News
Sponsors: *Albert E. Kaff, Donald J. Brydon*

ASSOCIATE RESIDENT

John P. Alexander, President, Alexander Associates, Inc.

Sponsors: *Sonia Ediff, Sol Zatt*

Carol Herman, National Director, PR, Israel Inst. of Technology

Sponsors: *Ben Greenwald, Gloria Zukerman*

UNDER AGE 30

Henry S. Julier III, Publ/Printing Sales, Mohawk Paper Mills

Sponsors: *John Groth, Henry Engler*

ASSOCIATE NON-RESIDENT

James H. Crisman, Jr., Consultant, Gehrung Associates

Sponsors: *Fred Gehrung, Frank Dobisky*

Change of Status

CHANGE OF STATUS

Charles J. Schreiber—Associate to Active Resident

Norman A. Schorr—Associate to Active Resident

Reinstated

REINSTATED

Larry K. Starkey—Associate

D. David Stevens—Associate Non-Resident

Letters

To The Editor:

I am writing this not just as a complaint, but to help other members who subscribe to Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Our rates have been raised; but their payments have been lowered.

Our new brochure (Better Benefits?) clearly states \$20 payment for an Electrocardiogram, but I only got \$12.50. When I inquired, I was told after three different phone calls that the 'fee had been reduced.' I asked why we hadn't been notified. I was told 'we would receive a new schedule of fees.' That was several months ago. Has anyone received a new schedule? I certainly believe we should get one, but where is it?

In another case, I had a test, also covered, and the Doctor who administered the test filled out the form after I paid him. Blue Cross sent a denial with NO explanation. I phoned to inquire 'why?' I was told I needed a medical diagnosis from the Doctor who ordered the test; I got that; sent it along; and several weeks later got the same letter of denial I received when I began this claim almost a year ago.

Human error is at work here. A claims examiner did not read the Doctor's letter properly, and did not act upon the claim correctly. Why not? The claims examiners are well paid and trained: surely they can read a diagnosis that was quite simple.

Also—if we need a referring Doctor's diagnosis to receive payment for a test, why isn't that fact mentioned in the brochure so we can file the claims correctly to begin with?

Alas! When you phone Blue Cross, an examiner answers the phone, takes your name and identification number, and then, while looking at the computer, puts on the lowest, most condescending, saccharine music that ever assaulted an intelligent person's ears. Played in miserable snatches, it's hard to even identify these unnecessary and degrading sounds.

Minutes tick by while the appalling sound continues: you lose patience, aware of the work on your desk. You hang up—thinking, "I can't waste this time." The tacky music has done its job—it's supposed to placate irate callers who've been denied their rights; in fact, it chases us away altogether.

How many claims never get resolved? How many clients, who pay quarterly on time, are denied their proper payments?

Blue Cross should turn off its music, tune up its claims examiners, and honor the contract signed with members of the Overseas Press Club.

Millicent Brower

Editors

(Continued from page 1)

Schneiderman, Editor-in-Chief of the *Village Voice* will speak to our group. Since his appointment in January of 1979, the Voice has received its first Pulitzer Prize, Front Page Award, Clarion Award, the ABA's Silver Gavel Award, a One to One Media Award, the NYSBA's Media Award, and others in the name of various staff writers.

Join us for all of these OPC functions and be ready for what's on tap in November...that program is already well organized thanks to the efforts of George Krinsky and Gloria Zukerman, the matchless Program Committee Co-Chairmen.

—Dolli Holland



Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; Helen Alpert, Rosalind Moore, Rosalind Massow, Charles J. Schreiber, Lawrence Stessin, Associate Editors.

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Salisbury Sees U.S. Closer to War

Harrison Salisbury, veteran correspondent for the *New York Times*, told an OPC luncheon audience Sept. 19 that he believed the United States was closer to war with Russia than any time since the early 1960s.

Salisbury, speaking on a range of issues from his perspective of four decades of foreign reporting, said: "You can feel it. It is comparable to the atmosphere of the Cuban missile crisis."

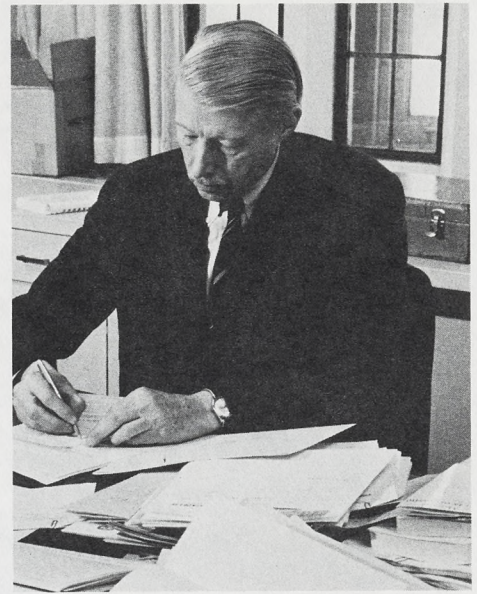
On the Soviet downing of the Korean Airliner last month, Salisbury said Moscow's "stonewalling" reaction to international opinion was entirely predictable. He said there was likely no

remorse in Moscow, because the Soviets genuinely felt the airliner had violated their security. "The pilot and commander will probably get a medal," he said.

In addition to the recent publication of his memoirs, Salisbury has completed his 24th book: "China: A hundred Years of Revolution."

Salisbury said that there had been numerous airplane incidents over the years in the Soviet Union, and that he wasn't surprised about their reaction.

Historically, he pointed out, Russian borders always have been vulnerable to invasion from all sides, and this has contributed to a deep sense of paranoia.



Salisbury

Wren: the Differences Between Moscow and Peking

Opening the OPC speaker series, Chris Wren, *New York Times* Peking Bureau Chief, easily outlined the differences in reporting from Moscow and Peking. On home leave from China, Chris met the post Labor Day crowd's queries as to the recent downing of the Korean passenger plane with an accurate description of Russian paranoia regarding invasion of their territorial boundaries; a view repeated by subsequent OPC speakers Harrison Salisbury and James Buckley.

As for the actual differences in reporting from Moscow and from Peking, Wren first noted several similarities—segregation insofar as living and working conditions, and lack of encouragement for meeting with government officials in both countries. Wren himself is fluent in Russian, which he studied at Dartmouth, and Chinese which he worked at intensively at Cambridge before taking up his current post last year. Winner of several OPC awards, Wren has also been posted to Greece, Vietnam, Cambodia and Cairo. He was on hand to report the hostage taking in Iran and the discovery of the Russian women climbers discovered frozen to death on Mount Lenin. Describing bureaucracy as China's prime drawback in resolving almost every major problem, Wren noted

a surprising autonomy in the actual functioning of outlying regions. Listing the energy supply, Hong Kong and Taiwan as other questions requiring immediate and in depth attention, Wren sees China readily identifying itself with the Third World, most assuredly in the role of leader.

Though more courteous than their Russian counterparts, both public officials and private citizens remain discreetly apart from guests—which means that there are none of those infamous drinking matches for which Russian camaraderie is known. While other forms of subtle segregation exist there are more news conferences open to outsiders and one can travel to 29 cities without a permit.

China is an interesting place to cover, even now that the heady days of the initial unveiling are over. According to Wren there's still a chance for Marxism to function on a major scale in China, while in Russia it has obviously failed. There are some 25,000 capitalist-style markets at the Sino-Russian border. Chinese farmers function as sharecroppers, reaping enormous profits along with their abundant crops. If the system continues to bring the same success it is currently enjoying, this form

of ideology may prove to be the successful formula for China.

Wren is quick to point out that this is in no way an indication of China's imitating American ideals or even admiration of them. In fact, when asked what ever happened to the cowboy hat he was given to wear on his trip to the western part of the USA—the Chinese prime minister replied 'I have no idea,' which is also an honest appraisal of where actual Sino-American relations are heading.

—Dolli Holland

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Recruit a New Member



Images of life, seen through windows, are a specialty of the photographers Sonja Bullaty and Angelo Lomeo, whose work will be on view in the OPC lobby between Oct. 3 and 31. Their photographs have been exhibited in galleries all over the world. Bullaty, now an American, was born in Czechoslovakia and studied with the late Czech classicist Josef Sudek. Lomeo is a former commercial artist who switched to photography. The two, who are married, are shown in a Canyonlands self-portrait.

'Windows' at OPC

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